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## A Timely Address

**The Wisdom of the Afro-American Presented in Good Form.**

Editor Fortune's Fine Italian Hand Shown—In the Multitude of the Council there was Wisdom—The Constitution, the Flag and Citizens' Rights Discussed—A Manly Appeal.

### ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

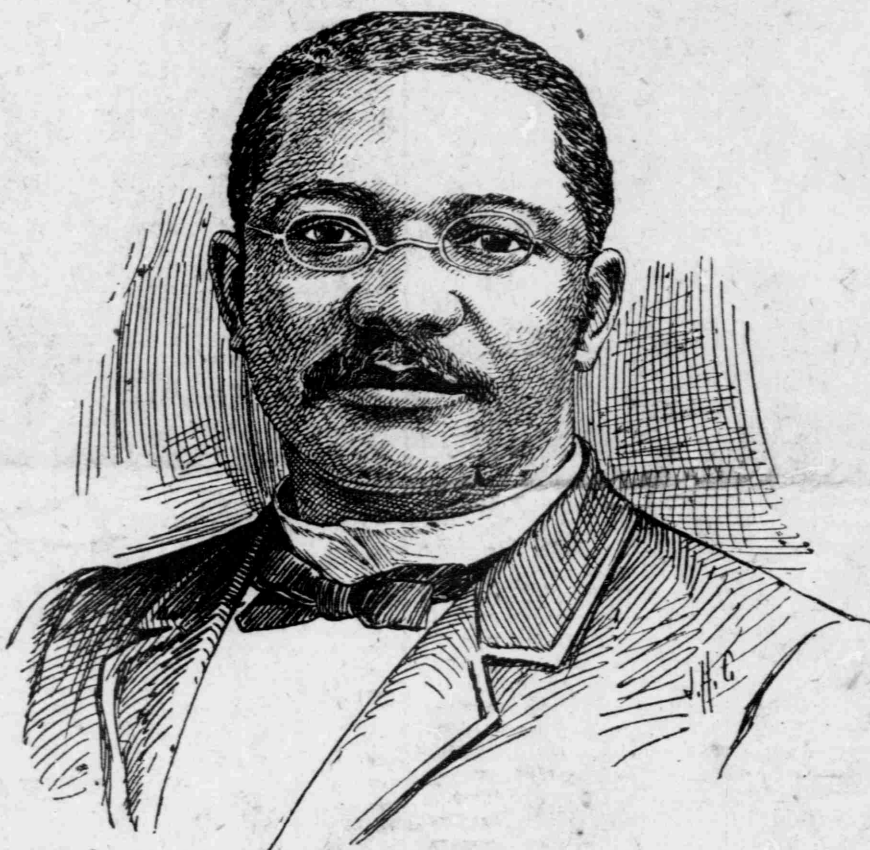
Believing confidently as we do that a vast majority of the people of this country favor that spirit of freedom and exact justice to all which not only gave birth to the nation, but has led it more than once to espouse the cause of the oppressed, and insist that every man shall be permitted to adjust the standard of his own worth, and thus settle for himself the place he will occupy in life, we, the representatives of 10,000,000 American citizens of African descent, do thus the more readily present our case before the great bar of public opinion, as hereinbefore set forth:

First—That we would call attention to the readiness with which we have at all times responded to our country's call, and fought patriotically and bravely to sustain the nation's honor and the country's flag.

Second—Our presence in this country, and the place we occupy therein, were not of our own choosing; we came in possession of this heritage as the result of an unusually and remarkably strange chain of circumstances. As we now look back over the past, it appears that our interests were guided by a divine hand, and that the outcome is the culmination of the divine purpose. This being true, our future is secure, and this country will in the years to come, as in the years that are past, profit by our presence.

We recognize with pleasure the friendly relation that has all along existed between the best people of the white race and our own, and we sincerely desire that nothing may be permitted to intervene to mar this relation. Still we are confident that no one who notes carefully the signs of the times can fail to discover that there are influences at work in nearly every part of the land to accomplish this very end. Who can fail to see that just at this time, and more so than for a number of years past, the Negro is being held up to public gaze as the most objectionable and undesirable citizen that treads American soil? The ignorant, vicious criminal classes are pointed to as the types and products of the race, rather than those who are the output of the Negro's best endeavors for race development and uplift. We declare this standard of measurement to be un fair to any people, and believe that fair-minded

## Men of the Hour.



PROF. WM. H. COUNCIL,

President Normal and Industrial, School, Normal, Ala.

citizens of the entire country will agree with us in this view. These do not indicate our capacity, either for present or future citizenship. It would be as fair to judge the white race of this country by those of their number who have assassinated Presidents or been guilty of treason or have betrayed and murdered innocent women. Judge us as you judge the mechanic; judge us as you judge the scholar; judge us as you judge yourselves, not by the worst, but by the GAL 19.

best products time and opportunity have enabled us to send forth to take their place among their fellows. It is manifestly unjust to seek to impress the country that because the Negro was once a slave he is not and never can be a man; because there are Negroes who commit crimes, therefore, the Negro is a criminal race.

### FEWER MOB VICTIMS.

As to mob violence it is gratifying to note that for the past year or two the number of victims show a decided decrease, and while all these were not members of our race the vast majority were. But notwithstanding this fact, we should not feel called upon to discuss the matter at all at this time were it not that though the number of victims is decreasing the variety of pro-

vocations which lead up to this act of violence is growing more and more numerous. It is not an unusual thing to read these days of Negroes being lynched for impudence, refusing to obey, striking a white man, etc. Now, we submit that lynching for any cause is destructive of law, is demoralizing. But to subject persons accused of or even guilty of such trivial offenses as we have indicated to unlawful punishment and death is to make the Negro the marked man of the nation; for him to suffer violence for such causes will eventually involve many of our best people. Even as it is in some sections of the country it means death for a Negro to attempt to protect the females of his family. We ask in all sincerity, is this American? Is it right? Such conditions indicate clearly a tendency to anarchy, and anarchy for the Negro will terminate for anarchy for all men. Law sustains our splendid civilization, and the absence of it means its destruction. Lawlessness begets its kind and its increase can bring no good to any one.

But again, the number of those of our race who are now accused of the nameless crime against women is so small as compared with the whole

## Tuskegee's Social Life

**Mr. and Mrs. Russell Royally Entertained by Tuskegees' Elite—Notes Fine Event.**

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Special.—On Tuesday evening of this week, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Washington gave an elegant reception at their beautiful home, on Varner Hill, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Russell, who had been united in marriage in Richmond, Va., June 17th. Mr. Russell is the capable and energetic head of the division of carpentry, at Tuskegee, and the enthusiasm which greeted him upon his home-coming, with his bride, was an eloquent testimonial to his popularity and estimable qualities as a gentleman and co-worker. Mrs. Russell was formerly Miss Ellen V. Trent, one of Richmond's fairest daughters, a member of the teachers corps of that city, and representing in her accomplishments, person, culture and social graces the highest type of womanhood to be found in the historic capitol of the Old Dominion.

The handsome and commodious parlors of Mr. and Mrs. Washington were crowded at an early hour with the many friends who came to pay their respects to the happy young couple, and amid "sweet converse," entrancing music, and countless congratulations and expressions of good wishes, the evening was spent, culminating in an elaborate and toothsome repast, all typical of the whole-souled hospitality for which the people of the Southland are justly famous. In addition to the local faculty and the families of the surrounding country, brilliance was added to the occasion by the presence of quite a number of distinguished ladies and gentlemen from abroad, some drawn here to spend the season amid Alabama's

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